REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to make minor clarifications in the specification, and to provide a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice. The amendments are not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Customer Number} \\ 22850 \end{array}$

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

GJM/SNS/law I:\atty\SNS\281014US-pr.doc Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599 Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423